

Bill 6
Additional Testimony



HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM
ASSOCIATION

Testimony of

Mufi Hannemann
President & CEO
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

Honolulu City Council

Bill 6 (2018)
Relating to Public Nuisances

November 14, 2018

Dear Chair Martin and members of the Honolulu City Council, mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's largest private sector visitor industry organization.

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association—nearly 700 members strong, representing more than 50,000 hotel rooms and nearly 40,000 lodging workers — of which many are located in the Waikiki stretch—supports Bill 6 (2018) which aims to amend Section 29-16.6, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, to exclude the public nuisance exception of having objects such as rolling kiosks on the sidewalks in the Waikiki Special District.

Over the years there have been notable complaints from local residents, visitors, and the traditional brick-and-mortar businesses in Waikiki regarding the sidewalk kiosks that are circumventing the law. Many of these kiosks make it difficult for the public to walk safely on the sidewalks, and also engage in conducting transactions off the beaten paths thereby giving them an unfair advantage over businesses that are paying a premium for rent space in the Waikiki area.

With public safety a major priority objective for HLTA, we support this bill as it seeks to make the walkways and sidewalks less congested and safer for the public. We thank the Honolulu Police Department, and our partner visitor industry organizations and businesses for their collaborative efforts in finding solutions to this issue. We urge the Honolulu City Council to pass this bill.

Mahalo.



WAIKĪKĪ IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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**Testimony of Rick Egged
President, Waikiki Improvement Association
Before the
Honolulu City Council
Wednesday, November 14, 2018
In consideration, of**

Bill 6 (2018)

Aloha Chair Martin and members of the Council,

My Name is Rick Egged, representing the Waikīkī Improvement Association (WIA). The WIA is a membership organization consisting of land owners, hotels, retailers and restaurants in Waikīkī, the businesses that serve them and those interested in the future of this important part of our community and economy.

The Waikīkī Improvement Association (WIA) strongly support Bill 6 (2018), Relating to nuisances on public sidewalks. Bill 6 eliminates the sidewalk nuisance exceptions in Waikīkī effectively prohibiting what we are calling rolling kiosks.

Waikīkī provides roughly a little over 20% of all the taxes collected by the City and County of Honolulu. (Includes Waikīkī's share of property tax and TAT). Each year evaluations increase, over 30% in the last four years, providing the city with increasing contributions from our hotels and commercial properties.

The 12 to 15 mobile kiosks that are wheeled onto Waikīkī sidewalks each day to promote their merchandise and services are obstacles to the safe mobility and access of the almost 5 million visitors and residents that traverse these sidewalks each year. The mobile kiosks are stationed by the entrances to tax paying properties inhibiting access and visibility. These mobile kiosks are physical obstructions that annoy our visitors and actually impede pedestrian traffic. They cause a pedestrian inconvenience and compress the public on Waikīkī's crowded sidewalks. WIA believes Waikīkī's sidewalks are no place for these rolling billboards promoting their commercial products in the public right of way.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.